Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS):

(b) if so, whether there is a need to revamp the functioning of AIIMS and to bring a more professional touch;

(c) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken in that direction; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The functioning of the Institute is reviewed from time to time by verious statutory and other committees. Suggestions made by these committees are incorporated to the best possible extent.

Harm caused by unrecognised Medical Institutions

3488. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be plased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some para-medical courses in many States are being conducted with necessary approval and the students passing out of these institutions are not getting recognition and are not eligible to apply for jobs under Government services;

(b) whether these institutions having no recognition are collecting huge fees and donations from the students on the pretext that theirs is a recognised institution; and

(c) if so, whether Government will take staps against the persons running such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) At present there is no statutory body at Central level to regulate the standards of para-medical courses. The para-medical courses in the States are regulated by the concerned State authorities.

The standards for Nursing and Pharmacy courses are determined by regulations framed under the Pharmacy Act, 1948 and the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.

(a) whether Government are aware that some para-medical courses in many States are being conducted with necessary approval and the students passing out of these institutions are not getting recognition and are not eligible to apply for jobs under Government services;

(b) whether these institutions having no recognition are collecting huge fees and donations from the students on the pretext that theirs is a recognised institution; and

(c) if so, whether Government will take staps against the persons running such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) At present there is no statutory body at Central level to regulate the standards of para-medical courses. The para-medical courses in the States are regulated by the concerned State authorities.

The standards for Nursing and Pharmacy courses are determined by regulations framed under the Pharmacy Act, 1948 and the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.

World Bank response to National T.B. Control Programme

3489. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have submitted any proposal to World Bank

for the expansion of National T.B. Control Programme to 102 districts covering population of 271 million, for its financial assistance; and

(b) if so, the responose of the World Bank to the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project proposal has been apprised by the World Bank and as per their AIDE-MEMOIRE, the project will constitute a time slice financing of the National TB Control Programme over 6 years with the purpose of strengthening the Programme nation-wide and setting up the institutional and managerial infrastructure to facilitate a gradual expansion of the revised strategy for TB Control to the entire country within 8--12 years time frame.

Difficulties faced by farmers for loans

3490. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers have to face a lot of difficulties in getting loans in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to simplify the rules prescribed therefor; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The amount of loans disbursed by commercial banks, including nationalised banks, under Annual Credit Plan for the last three years for agriculture and allied activities in Punjab, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, is given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Amount
1993-94	42067
1994-95	49149
1995-96	60781

It may be seen from the above that the disbursal of loans by banks for the agriculture sector has been on the increase in the State of Punjab.

(b) and (c) RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target and sub-targets for lending to priority sector at the earliest. It has also taken the following additional steps to ensure enhanced flaw of credit to agricultural sector:—

(i) Simplified application forms have been made avilable which are also available in regional languages;

(ii) Prescription of scales of finance for crop loans as worked out by technical committees constituted in each district for various crops and their uniform adoption by banks;

(iii) Disposal of loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks;

(iv) Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to rural branch managers so that majority of loan applications from weaker sections are sanctioned at branch level itself;

(v) Liberal guidelines in regard to requirement of collateral security by way of mortgage of land/charge on landor third party guarantee;

(vi) The public sector banks have introduced the Agricultural Credit